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CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1158, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Hatfield amendment No. 420, in the nature of a substitute.

D'Amato amendment No. 427 (to amendment No. 420) to require congressional approval of aggregate annual assistance to any foreign entity using the exchange stabilization fund established under section 5302 of title 31, United States Code, in an amount that exceeds \$5 billion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the D'Amato amendment is temporarily laid aside in order to consider an amendment to be offered by the minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 445

(Purpose: To propose a substitute)

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. KOHL, proposes an amendment numbered 445.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we have had a good debate now for the last couple of days on the issue of rescissions and the need to provide supplemental funding for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, FEMA.

What we have not had a good debate about, however, is about priorities, and about values, what it is we ought to do with the resources, as limited as they are, that we have available.

It is our view we ought to have a debate of that kind, and we ought to consider where it is we want to put resources, how it is we want to direct those resources to affect the greatest number of people and do the most good.

That is what this amendment intends to do. This amendment recognizes that there really is a twofold purpose in what it is we are trying to do with this bill.

We are obviously trying to ensure that FEMA has the adequate resources necessary to continue the extraordinary job that they do in providing emergency assistance to communities all over the country. But we are also very sensitive to the need to continue to move ahead with meaningful deficit reduction.

This session of Congress has been devoted in large measure to procedural questions about how it is we bring down the debt. I am very disappointed by the fact that, frankly, our best procedural effort to do that in a meaningful way, a budget resolution, which is required from the Budget Committee tomorrow, will not occur at the time required by law.

While we talked about procedure, the majority has been unwilling so far to use the procedure we already have to do exactly what we say we need to do.

Therefore, Mr. President, I am disappointed that we have failed to produce the budget resolution necessary to accomplish what we say we really need here.

Mr. President, the issue of priorities, as we consider deficit reduction, brings Members to the floor on many occasions. Again, it does this morning. We recognize while we need to reduce the deficit, we also recognize that the long-term deficit is going to be determined in part by the needs of Americans who may depend upon the Federal Government, and by the ability they have to go out and become meaningful, productive, taxpaying citizens.

The only way we can ensure working families have the capacity to be productive, taxpaying citizens, is that we invest in their future with what limited resources we have.

The amendment that I am proposing this morning—and supported, I would say, by the overwhelming majority if not all of our colleagues on the Democratic side—is an amendment that simply says “Whatever else we do to reduce the deficit, the one thing we ought to do is to be cognizant of how important it is that we protect our children and the investment that we need to make in children.”

This amendment would simply allow Members to tell 1 million children across the country that it is our intention to help them, that it is our commitment to them and to deficit reduction, both, that we hope to articulate in this amendment.

Our legislation would provide protection for 5,000 children when it comes to child care. We want to tell working families that we want them to go out there and do the best they can to generate the income that their talents will allow, and we will try to assist where it can be provided with the child care needs they have, in order to be a productive and an involved working citizen.

Child care is the first installment of a multiple array of tools that can help working families do their job better. The same in Head Start. We want to protect 9,000 children in the Head Start Program who otherwise will be cut off, who otherwise will not have the opportunity to begin their early childhood development in a meaningful way, and to ensure that when the time comes they can become good students, good working people and good family members. That is what Head Start does. And we are hoping to protect the 9,000 people who otherwise will be cut out, without the advantages of this amendment.

We are also telling those young adults, those young Americans who want very much to be able to go to college and at the same time help their country, that we remember them as we change our deficit priorities. We want to tell 36,000 young people that it is important to go out through national service and develop the capacity they need, to go to college, to learn skills, to do the things necessary to become important and taxpaying citizens in this country.

No one denies the incredible impact that the Women, Infants, and Children Program has. We will tell 70,000 mothers and children that we will help them as well, not by increasing the deficit.

I emphasize here that this amendment is completely paid for by shifting priorities to allow Congress to reduce the deficit but protect women, infants, and children in the program that has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to assist young families as they begin to meet the challenges of life.

We also recognize that school is critical. If we are going to invest properly in families, in working families, we have to ensure that our investment in education is adequately provided.

Aid to schools, impact aid, is of critical importance. And under the pending bill, \$16 million overall will be lost. In my State of South Dakota, over one-half million dollars would be lost. The impact that will have on schools that rely upon this funding, as I indicated

over the last couple of days, would be devastating.

We want to say, without equivocation, when it comes to priorities, education is at the top of the list. Only the educated are free. Only the free can participate adequately in democracy. Only if we ensure adequate educational investment can we ensure the freedom that we so dearly love in this country. Aid to schools, and providing better schools for almost 1 million students is what this amendment does as well.

Mr. President, I will have much more to say about the amendment and about what we are attempting to do later on this morning.

Let me emphasize how important this amendment is. How important it is that we provide adequate funding for FEMA. How important it is that we provide meaningful deficit reduction, but at the same time that we meet those two objectives. It is critical that we protect 1 million children who otherwise would be cut out of needed assistance.

Mr. President, I will return to the floor shortly to say more about the amendment and about our intentions with regard to this investment. I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, first of all, I want to commend our leader, Senator DASCHLE, for the work in developing this amendment which he has proposed, and which I welcome the opportunity to cosponsor. I find this a compelling amendment, and as Senator DASCHLE mentioned yesterday, I believe that we will develop bipartisan support.

Basically, the focus of this amendment is on children and education. We have some other features in there with such as the national service program, but it is primarily an amendment that reflects our priorities on education and children.

What it is saying regarding these programs included in those rescissions is there were appropriations which went through the legislative process, went through the House and Senate, and were signed by the President of the United States. The programs include Head Start, chapter 1, school reform programs, and day care programs. There are families out there across America that were depending on those programs. There are mothers and fathers who believed that their children were going to be involved in the Head Start Program and they could count on it. There are mothers and fathers who thought that their children would participate in the chapter 1 program, a program redeveloped and redesigned, refashioned with strong bipartisan support last year to improve it. There are parents who had believed they might be able to improve themselves and the lives of their children because day care programs would now be available to them.

I looked forward to the debate on this amendment. The amendment itself was responsible in terms of its offset, although I think it is commendable in any respect. I think it would have been

important for us to debate this issue. It has been in the works for some period of time. The leader had indicated yesterday that we were going to offer this amendment. We had heard last night from the majority leader—after there was a whole debate on matters that were not directly related to these rescissions all day long, after many of us had been on the floor in the early afternoon looking for the opportunity to debate this amendment—that we could debate these amendments. Where are the amendments? When are we going to deal with them? Can we get a time agreement?

Now we are notified that that particular measure is going to be pulled, withdrawn, effectively denying us the opportunity to debate this particular measure. As I understand it, in its place is going to be a conference report. I will have more to say about that report, and I think other Members will have more to say about later in the morning about how it treats a handful of individuals who are trying to escape paying their fair share of the tax system and escape all kinds of tax responsibility.

I think one of the key elements of where we are as a Congress has been the issue of priorities and where we are going as a Congress. We had, over the period of this past week, in our committee, our Human Resource Committee, the repeal of Davis-Bacon legislation which had been in effect for some 60 years. This repeal will diminish the economic power of construction workers whose average income is \$27,000 a year. We are in the middle of an economic assault on working families.

We have also had the assault on the President's proposal which would ensure that we were not going to further and encourage the whole striker replacement worker phenomenon that has been taking place across this country, weakening the economic rights of working families.

We have seen the purchasing power of average workers in this country decline dramatically over the period of recent years. Many of us have been pointing out that we ought to consider those particular measures against what is happening to the other members of their families, to their children in this instance, to the care of their children and the education of their children. We expected to have that opportunity now to make that case in terms of the Head Start programs, which have been tried and tested and reshaped and supported by Republicans and Democrats, by funding for the chapter 1 programs, by the return of the summer job programs, the voluntary service programs, the President's national service program.

We have seen these programs cut at a time where we see, over in the House of Representatives, the leadership talking about using these cuts to provide tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and corporations in this country. These are legitimate public policy issues and questions the American people ought

to have an opportunity to express their views on through their elected representatives.

I think these are the questions being put to the U.S. Senate today to debate and discuss in this amendment that had been worked by the minority leader. We had heard earlier today, if he offered this amendment, there were going to be parliamentary maneuvers to try to second-degree it so we could not have, effectively, the debate and discussion on it.

Mr. President, we know there is the power to be able to do that. But I, for one, would certainly have urged the leader to continue to offer this particular proposal in form after form until he was at least given the opportunity for an up-or-down vote on his amendment, a position which has the strong support from many on this side and, hopefully, even from some on the other side.

So, Mr. President, I want to just make very clear I am very hopeful we will come back to this measure and that we will debate the rescissions here in the U.S. Senate, that we are going to come back and we are going to have an opportunity at that time to talk about this amendment. It affects \$42 million in Head Start programs, \$2.5 million in Healthy Start programs that will help 8,000 to 10,000 low-income children who lose nutrition assistance during their preschool years; \$8.4 million in child care funds that will deny 5,000 children of working families the support they need for day care.

There are only about 4 or 5 percent of our working families that are able to afford decent child care. We have a program to try to provide assistance to working mothers for child care programs. These funds had been appropriated, and this rescission cuts \$8.4 million in that child care program and \$1.3 million in children's mental health. It eliminates services in 11 sites and 11 States to children with mental and emotional disorders. The amendment would have restored the funding under chapter 1 for 70,000 educationally disadvantaged children who have special needs, the \$55 million in the Goals 2000 that would have provided help and assistance to 13,000 school districts across this country, to try to strengthen, at the local level, academic achievement and accomplishment; the support for safe and drug-free schools.

Those particular funds provide a combination of resources for safety in schools. I will bet there are a score of politicians making speeches right now about the importance of safety in schools. Well, here we had an opportunity to do something about it. We have an opportunity to restore some funds for safety in schools, and \$100 million that had been actually appropriated is being withdrawn. We want to put that back.

We have the \$30 million School-to-Work Program. The School-to-Work

Program is going to be the basis of a major overhaul of training programs, the concept of which has been basically accepted by Republican leaders in the House and the Senate as being a key element in revamping of youth training programs. School-to-Work has strong bipartisan support to provide some opportunity for the 70 percent of the children who do not go on to higher education, to move them from school into work, the partnership between the private and the public sectors. There was \$30 million that would have been eliminated for them.

The amendment would have restored the TRIO Program, \$11 million for the TRIO Program which has been one of the most successful programs for the disadvantaged students, to give them the help and assistance in terms of education support and health support.

Education technology—\$5 million for education technology. What you learn in the schools is directly related to what you are going to earn. We have a deficiency in terms of technology in the schools across this country and a very significant imbalance in technology availability between the wealthier schools, both private and public, and the most disadvantaged schools. We have developed a small technology program. That program had been cut back.

There is also a cutback in the national service program, even though the service program had been worked out with Republicans and Democrats alike, and we had agreed to phase in the funding—\$300, \$500, \$700 million over 3 years. Yet we see a significant reduction in funding for that program.

We have already seen some positive returns from the national service program, as well as other programs that are related to youth and youth training, programs designed to do something about young people, with a number of them having dropped out of school. We lose about 400,000 young people a year. In many instances, they are individuals who do not have a sense of hope or a sense of opportunity or a sense of future, and they are the ones who fall into trouble in their local communities and are a source of trouble in terms of the law. We have been revamping and reshaping and improving many of these programs. Yet they are being cut.

So many work force training programs are being effectively eliminated, and this eliminates an opportunity to do something for the education and training and employment of young people. The Daschle amendment shows a sensitivity to these programs by restoring them.

Mr. President, I think we should have had a discussion about where the priorities are in this body. We should have been given an opportunity to debate these questions. The Daschle amendment had been thought through, and its shaping had been given a good deal of attention.

It is a thoughtful, responsive amendment that restores many of the cuts

that are going to be particularly harsh on children and education. Those are not areas that we ought to be cutting back. Those are areas in which we ought to be investing more. Certainly, just throwing money at problems is not the answer, but how we allocate resources is a pretty clear indication of what our Nation's priorities really are.

What we know is that when you have decent, good, effective education programs and you cut back on them, what is happening is that you are basically increasing social costs and decreasing revenues in the long term for this country. It makes no sense at all.

We, I think, deserve an opportunity to debate these issues. When the measure comes back, we will have an opportunity to do so, not only in this amendment but also in follow-on amendments that will target education and target children's issues. So we will have a chance to speak to these issues.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with the leader and the score of other cosponsors of this amendment in debating these issues later.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, last week Republicans in the other body passed a bill that pokes huge holes in the social safety net for America's children. Their welfare reform bill guts the School Lunch Program and other programs that kids rely on for nutritious meals. Now, in the Senate, we are debating a rescissions bill that will slash another set of programs that are so critical to these very same children.

I am talking about Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, and Summer Jobs for Youth, among others.

The rescissions bill cuts Head Start by \$42 million, even though the House did not cut funding for this program at all. As a result, 9,000 children will lose the chance to get a head start on learning. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program, addressing a wide range of critical needs: health, nutrition, social. Perhaps most important, it puts a premium on parent involvement and helps to forge a bond between parents and their children's education.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Program was cut by \$8.4 million. Again the House bill had not cut. This 20 percent reduction means that 5,000 fewer kids will qualify for child care assistance. There are an estimated 21 million children who live below 200 percent of the poverty line in this country. About 8 million of them live with a single parent who works at least part time or with two parents who both work at least part time. These 8 million children are members of working families whose income make them eligible for child care assistance. In fiscal year 1993, only about 750,000 of these kids actually got assistance.

Now, we are considering a bill that will drop another 5,000 children from the program. Some of these kids live in

homes where, without assistance, their mothers will not be able to afford to work. Low-income families already pay 27 percent of their income on child care—it is ridiculous to think that they can afford to spend more than that.

S. 617 cuts all funding for the 1996 Summer Jobs for Youth. This means that about 615,000 young men and women—1,300 in North Dakota—will not work. According to a 1995 Labor Department report, the program greatly increases the summer employment rates for participating youth. Researchers estimate that, for every three jobs provided under the program, two young people worked who otherwise would not have.

I just do not understand why some would want to slash successful programs like these. I agree with my colleagues that we should pay for what we appropriate for disaster assistance. However, this bill asks that children and low-income families pay a disproportionate share of the check.

I support the Daschle amendment to restore much needed funding for these programs. It channels resources where they belong, in our children. It supports nutritional assistance, training and education, and housing, and it is fully paid for.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Daschle amendment to H.R. 1158, supplemental appropriations and rescissions bill, that would restore funding to many important programs that aid children and support housing programs. This amendment restores valuable funding for several programs that support and educate our children. Few programs are as important to the future to our country as the program that assists our Nation's children.

Mr. President, the Daschle amendment also preserves \$36 million of funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions [CDFI] Fund. This amount falls short of the original \$125 million, however, I believe it is a good first step to address the critical problems that exist in our economically distressed communities.

I have long been committed to empowering disadvantaged and minority communities to help themselves and to invest in their own communities. While I recognize the need to cut the Federal deficit, I believe it is important to achieve the national policy goals of revitalizing communities, increasing access to credit and investment capital, promoting entrepreneurship, and rebuilding private markets in distressed neighborhoods.

As in other States, Colorado's cities have neighborhoods which lack access to resources for business and economic development. I know that many rural communities in Colorado have never had proper access to credit and banking services. Many of them have no

lender who wants to give them a chance or give them hope. But, in fact, there are many creative entrepreneurs in our rural communities who are idea rich, but resource poor.

Mr. President, I believe community development financial institutions will open new markets for conventional lenders while giving borrowers access to previously unreachable sources for capital and credit. Community development financial institutions are specifically dedicated to revitalization. They possess specialized expertise in community development and are successful in tailoring loan products and services to meet the needs of low-income and minority communities.

In the case of native American communities, reservations generally are among the most disinvested and poor areas with weak economies. These communities, in particular, are in desperate need of creative banking and financial services. I believe the CDFI fund is a first step and an important step in addressing these critical needs.

The CDFI fund is a next generation Federal initiative that combines private entrepreneurship, extensive leveraging of Federal dollars and a strong commitment to self-help credit. I believe the CDFI fund will fill market niches that banks and other conventional lenders are not serving, especially in native American communities, and provide bridges between unconventional borrowers and conventional lenders.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment offered by the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. HATFIELD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader's amendment is the pending business.

AMENDMENT NO. 446 TO AMENDMENT NO. 445

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE] for Mr. ASHCROFT, for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. NICKLES, proposes an amendment numbered 446 to amendment No. 445.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I say to my colleagues, I am not certain how much longer this bill will be on the floor, because it is pretty obvious to this Senator that what we have here is a political exercise by the other side.

If the President of the United States does not want this bill, it is all right with me. But he is not going to get the other bill, either, the one on defense.

So I would just say to the White House, if they are serious about reducing spending, as the President indicates he is from time to time, and if they really want the first supplemental, the defense supplemental that passed that is now in conference, then I think they had better go to work on what has become nothing but a political exercise. And that is what we are about to engage in here today. That is certainly the right of every Senator.

But my view is that if there is all this concern about children, I did not see it expressed when we had the balanced budget amendment up here. Some of the speakers voted for the balanced budget last year and against it this year. I do not know why they forgot about the children for the next 10, 15, or 20 years if we do not balance the budget and make tough choices. But some never make tough choices. They make tough speeches, and then they want to come back and add some here, add some here, and add some here.

I must say, in every case in the so-called Daschle amendment, there are already additions in spending in all of these programs. But they want to add just a little more so they can come to the floor and make this political argument that somehow they are going to protect the children and we are going to destroy the children of America. I mean, it is nonsense. It is preposterous. It is ludicrous.

So the amendment we have offered will give Senators in this body who want to have real spending cuts the opportunity to vote "aye"—real spending cuts.

IRS, \$100 million—that ought to be a favorite of everybody; AmeriCorps, \$206 million; foreign operations, \$91 million; Corporation for Public Broadcasting, \$47 million—all the President's budget cuts, \$337 million. Surely the Democrats will vote for that.

Legal Services Corporation, about \$6 million; Radio Free Europe, \$98 million; youth bill, \$38 million, for a total of \$927 million in real cuts. It does not devastate any of these programs, but they are real cuts.

I want to congratulate my colleague from Arizona, Senator KYL, the Senator from Missouri, Senator ASHCROFT, and the Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, for their initiative.

I guess I did miss a couple. The actual total would be \$1.3 billion, which will be discussed by my colleagues

from Arizona, Missouri, and Pennsylvania.

We would like to have a time agreement on this amendment. We would like to make some progress on this bill, and we would like to also vote on the Daschle substitute, although there could be additional second-degree amendments to it.

Then at 12 o'clock or shortly thereafter, we would take up the conference report dealing with self-employed. It is very important we do that today because April 15 is not far away and, hopefully, the President—I am certain he would—sign it as quickly as he receives it, so that we will be reinstating the 25-percent deduction. Many people are waiting to file their tax returns.

The Senator from Massachusetts indicated he might want to discuss that at length because of a Senate provision which was dropped in conference. We put the provision in. I feel strongly about the provision, about those who leave the country to avoid paying taxes.

We also put in the committee report, at my suggestion, that any additional legislation would be effective on February 6—February 6. Not next week or not last week, but February 6. So when we address this issue again in the tax bill—it will probably be in the reconciliation package—when we have additional hearings and make certain that we are following the correct procedure, I expect that provision to be in the next package. It was in the Senate package. We did have hearings on the Senate side, but only 1 day of hearings.

There were some serious questions raised. The report will be due in June, so that will give us adequate time to address that issue. So, hopefully, we can pass the conference report with a very brief time agreement. There will be a record vote on the conference report. Hopefully, we will have record votes on the other material.

I say to my colleagues, there will probably be at least two or three votes today and, depending on the White House response—if they do not want this rescission bill or anything in it—then we can continue to have this turkey shoot out here with everybody offering amendments to make a few political points. We already had 8 or 10 on the other side. I assume they have 30 or 40 more. That is fine with me. If we want to make this a turkey shoot, then the White House should understand, that is it and that they are not going to get either bill.

So I will just say to the Chief of Staff at the White House and the President of the United States that if he is serious, we are serious; if he is not serious, that is fine with us.

Mr. KYL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to speak in strong support of the amendment of the majority leader which will have the effect of restoring \$1.3 billion in disaster assistance for

California. It will have the effect of reducing additional spending from last year's budget in the form of rescissions, including, for example, \$337 million in budget cuts that were requested by President Clinton but are not in the rescission package as it exists right now. It further rescinds several other programs to levels near to or the same as the House rescission package. For example, as the majority leader says, it cuts \$100 million from the IRS bureaucracy, and makes other changes.

The specific areas in which the rescissions are increased are the AmeriCorps Program, which I will speak to in a moment, the IRS, as I mentioned, some foreign operations matters, which you will be addressing, Mr. President, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—as I said, \$337 million in cuts that were requested by President Clinton—the Legal Services Corporation and a program called youth bill, and some others. The total, as the majority leader said, is over \$1.3 billion, close to \$1.4 billion.

The majority leader has indicated an interest in having a time agreement and, as a result of that, I think we will begin by being relatively brief on a few of these items. But if it is the desire of those in the minority to debate this at length, then we will be prepared to do that. It is our hope that the majority leader's will is reflected in an agreement by the minority as well.

So let me begin this debate by focusing on the first item on this particular amendment, and that is the AmeriCorps Program, the so-called voluntarism program in this country, which is not voluntarism at all but rather has the Federal Government taking taxpayer dollars to pay people to work as volunteers.

Obviously, that is an oxymoron. You are not a volunteer if you are being paid for your volunteer activity by the U.S. Government. But that is the nature of this program, and that is obviously one thing that is wrong with it.

I think perhaps one of the most important things I will say here, Mr. President, is as follows: This amendment is similar to the amendment that the House passed by a vote of 382 to 23. So the House made the degree of rescissions that we are talking about in this amendment by the overwhelming majority of 382 to 23.

If the Senate cannot reflect that significant consensus of the House of Representatives in a similar number, then I think those who are watching us today may wonder what this body can do. Clearly, we can reflect the same consensus that was generated from the House of Representatives.

What this would mean in dollars is that AmeriCorps funding for fiscal year 1995 would total almost \$159 million. During a time of severe budget constraints, we are asking of our programs that are currently funded at one level, can those programs be reduced in their funding to reflect the fiscal position that the United States is in right now?

We cannot afford all of these programs, at least to the degree they are being funded.

As a brandnew program, AmeriCorps cost American taxpayers \$367 million last year. Now the President wants to increase the cost to over \$800 million for 1996. What we are suggesting is, we do not shut the program down, but we reduce the funding of the program to the same level that the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to fund.

AmeriCorps is not an effective jobs or education program. We submit that it will not increase voluntarism in our country.

Mr. President, students of history will recall that one of the most profound observers of the American scene, as this country was getting going in the early 1800's, was a French historian by the name of Alexis de Tocqueville. Alexis de Tocqueville came to this country to see what made it so dynamic, why we were seeming to do so well just 50 years after our Revolution, and what experience he could take back to France to tell his fellow citizens how they might improve their society as Americans seemed to be doing.

One of his chief findings was that Americans banded together in all sorts of voluntary arrangements to help each other in their local communities. They banded together in groups with names and just as neighbors helping neighbors—to put up a barn, to help a family, to work in a community, to work in the churches or the synagogues. In one way or another, he observed, Americans volunteered to help each other, and that was one of the significant differences between America and the old Europe from which he came. In fact, he reflected on this by saying, "America is great because America is good." And if America shall ever cease to be good, America will cease to be great. One of those elements of goodness to which he was referring was this dynamic concept of voluntarism that characterized the American society.

That voluntarism has continued until this day. But I submit that the AmeriCorps Program—U.S. Government paid volunteers—undermines the concept of voluntarism, as Alexis de Tocqueville had observed. Groups such as the Salvation Army, Arizona Clean and Beautiful Project, the Crime Victim Foundation, St. Mary's and Andre House food bank, and others all around this country, commit millions of hours to voluntarism every year. Today, Americans, age 18 and up, volunteer, without pay, almost 20 billion hours of their time. That is a 50-percent increase in hours since 1981. Turning voluntarism into a wide-scale public job program, I submit, will undermine public and private philanthropy. It stands the concept of voluntarism on its head.

A final point, Mr. President. It is not just that it undermines voluntarism, and that it is costly. But it is taking money away from other programs which really could be of assistance to America's youth.

The AmeriCorps project is not based on need, as you know. It does not promote voluntarism based upon the need of the people who participate in it. Students are paid \$7,400 for work and given \$4,750 toward education costs for 2 years. In addition, recipients are guaranteed health and child care benefits, and in some localities, other benefits. For the average \$20,000 to \$30,000 cost per year, per student in the AmeriCorps Program, eight needy students could receive Pell grants at \$2,400 apiece. So we could educate eight needy students in this country for the same thing that it costs us to pay for one "volunteer" under the AmeriCorps Program.

This \$20,000 stipend is worth more than the individual income of nearly 40 million working Americans.

So, Mr. President, it seems to us that given the fact that it does not promote real voluntarism; that it is costing a tremendous amount of money; that the House voted overwhelmingly to reduce the funding to the level that we are proposing here; that it takes money away from programs which could really assist needy students who need funding to continue their education, we should adopt the amendment of the majority leader, thus reducing the amount of funding for the AmeriCorps Program.

I am going to yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania in a moment. I have one final point here. Over 2,800 volunteers—20 percent of the 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers—are assigned to Federal agencies. This is a volunteer program designed to help people in local communities, but 20 percent of these people are assigned to the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, National Endowment for the Arts, and others. The federally funded Legal Services Corporation for example has been awarded funding for 44 AmeriCorps volunteers, costing taxpayers almost a million dollars.

This is not voluntarism, Mr. President. This is just one of the programs that we would reduce the spending for in order to achieve the \$1.3 billion-plus in rescissions that make up the amendment of the majority leader.

At this time, let me yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania to further discuss this point.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair. What I would like to do is talk about what this amendment does. The first thing it does is restores President Clinton's request for \$1.3 billion in disaster assistance for California earthquake victims, and disaster relief in numerous other States. The minority leader's proposal would remove that funding that is needed for the victims of natural disasters, and our amendment seeks to restore that money. That was the principal reason this bill was before us—this is a disaster relief supplemental. That is the reason this bill is here. The rescissions has turned into, maybe as the majority leader said, a

"turkey shoot," with a lot of other amendments being thrown on. The House decided to do more rescissions, as we are doing here. But the underlying purpose, the reason this bill is here, is that this is a supplemental appropriation bill to provide for disaster assistance. What the minority leader has done is take away the underpinnings for the bill and reduce what the bill is for in the first place and to fund a whole lot of other programs that are in the bill.

Our amendment pays for this \$1.3 billion to be put back in, by rescinding some of the provisions here to equal the House level. The House went through and rescinded certain programs. What we do is match their rescissions. The Senator from Arizona talked about one such, the AmeriCorps Program, which I will touch on, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting was another.

In addition to those rescissions, what we also did was to adopt some of the President's suggested rescissions. The President came forward in his rescission package with \$337 million in additional budget cuts. These are things requested by the President. I have taken the opportunity, while sitting here, to examine these rescissions and to find out what these were all about. What I see is really almost a precursor to the line-item veto. These are a bunch of line items that were put in by the Appropriations Committee here in the House, and in the Senate, earmarks—earmarks being things that are put in by certain Members for demonstration projects in your State or in your district, which takes money that is not authorized by the House or Senate and signed by the President, things that are nice little projects for back home. And we have here \$337 million worth of these projects that the President, rightfully, said these projects are really the definition in the sense of pork. Let us go after these projects. I agree with the President.

So we put these \$337 million of projects in this rescission amendment to restore the money back to California and other States. So this is an attempt not only to try to get some comity with the House and try to reduce the levels of funding to what they have wanted but also to reach out to the President and say we are going to put your disaster assistance money back in, but we are going to adopt your rescissions.

A lot of criticism is made around here of not being bipartisan and playing Presidential politics. We are here with this Republican amendment, offered by our leader, acceding to the wishes of the President. I would be interested to see what the folks in the President's party react to try to do what the President wants to do. That is what we are doing here today. We are trying to work in a bipartisan fashion to craft a good supplemental appropriations bill and rescission package.

Here are a couple things we are not doing in this amendment. We are not

eliminating the Summer Jobs Program, and that is almost \$900 million. We keep the funding levels up. We are going to get in a fight with the House on that. We keep the LIHEAP Program, which the Senator from Arizona was going to offer an amendment on and deeply wanted to put it in this bill. We kept that fully funded because we feel that low energy income assistance is important. That is another \$1.3 billion. So that is about \$2.2 billion of additional rescissions which the House requested that we did not because we have set priorities.

Some of our priorities that just did not quite make the grade are things like the AmeriCorps Program. The Senator from Arizona did an excellent job in discussing how the nature of voluntarism is being corrupted by paying volunteers \$20,000 a year to volunteer. I wish I got paid that to volunteer my time. That is what this program does. It is a \$7,400-per-year stipend to volunteer, plus a \$4,750 tuition credit per volunteer, plus medical benefits and child care. All that totals about \$20,000 a year. That is not counting the roughly \$15,000 a year it takes for administrative and overhead costs per volunteer. It almost costs as much for overhead as it does to pay them.

This is not an efficient program. Roughly half the money being siphoned off here to Washington or other places around the country in bureaucratic payments and the money—hard-earned taxpayer dollars—that could be used to support families and put food on the table is going to pay bureaucrats and people, many of whom in this program are wealthy.

The AmeriCorps Program is not a means-tested program. I am sure a lot of people will find that to be shocking. This AmeriCorps Program is not for the poor. We have doctors, we have people who are spouses of doctors, and children of wealthy people. They all qualify. This is not for young people. Do not think of this as a youth corps of disadvantaged youths that are out there doing the public service. No, no, no, no, no.

I think it is up to 60 years of age, irrespective of income. They can come in, get the stipends, and get up to 2 years of educational grants. We have the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, who said we could take one of the grants and turn them into five people for Pell grants for every one volunteer we have on AmeriCorps.

No, we will put them to work. Who will they work for? We have 1,200 for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1,200 AmeriCorps volunteers; 525 for the Interior Department; 210 for the Department of Justice; 135 for the Environmental Protection Agency; 60 at the National Endowment for the Arts. This is not out there in the community doing the kind of work that this program has been sold as.

Again, administrative costs are high. This is not means tested. Anybody qualifies, irrespective of income, and

they get a benefit which is actually even greater than the GI bill. I had the Commandant of the Marine Corps talk to me and tell me that recruitment is being hurt in the Marines and other branches of the service because of the AmeriCorps Program, because they can have a nice job here stateside, doing nice things, maybe doing good kinds of things, and get paid, not only as I said before, their stipends, but \$4,725 per year in educational grants, up to 2 years of service, while the GI bill provides not \$4,725, what the AmeriCorps bill does provide for, but \$4,800, \$75 more, for putting 3 years into the Marine Corps.

Now, think about that. No wonder it is hurting recruitment. No wonder it is causing a problem. This is just dogoodism of Government, thinking they can do everything for everybody and pay them at the same time. It is a complete distortion of what I think most people see as the role of voluntarism in America.

We believe that this is a prime target for rescissions. I think we are very generous. We leave the program at least running. We do it at reduced levels. The present level of funding is \$370 million, and it is supposed to go up next year to \$610 million. We cut that back to actually about \$157 million. I think that is awfully generous for a program that clearly is out of step with where America wants to take this country, as far as its allocation of resources and spending.

The other area that I wanted to touch on very briefly, if this debate does go on longer, we will come back and talk about it further, but I know the Senator from Missouri wants to talk on some of the foreign aid/foreign operations matters, the other area is the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

I have, and I am sure every Member of this body has received numerous letters and phone calls about protecting "Barney" and Big Bird making sure that we do not cut out money for Public Broadcasting.

I cannot say it any more plainly. If it comes, and I look at the chart of the Senator from South Dakota about helping children and the things that we need to do to provide money for WIC Programs and food stamps and other things that are so important and essential, if we cannot cut \$47 million out of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, then we have no business standing up here and saying we are serious about reducing the deficit.

That is just amazing to me. We talk about corporate welfare. I hear so much talk over there about we have to get rid of corporate welfare. This is the most outrageous of corporate welfare, for programming and for things that can simply and easily be provided by

the public through public contributions, or with assistance, as we already do.

These are nonprofits. And they already get, in a sense, a Government subsidy. They already get breaks in having to pay for their rights of communication. We already provide certain benefits. To throw additional money at that when they do not take advantage, as they do not, of the royalties available to them from programs like "Barney" and "Sesame Street" and others, they get virtually nothing back in royalties if showing these programs on their public television stations.

If they are not going to take advantage of the opportunities that are before them to help fund their programming, then why should the American taxpayers, working hard to put food on their families' tables, pay to support Public Broadcasting, when, at least in our area in Pennsylvania, the corporate salaries are similar to those of some of the chief executive officers of some of the major corporations in Pittsburgh.

I think it is, again, I cannot stress strongly enough, if we do not have the courage to stand up and cut funding for a program like the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, when we have some people getting 100-some stations, many of them learning-type stations, educational stations, with the onset, as we will see in bringing up the telecommunications bill next week, of almost the irrelevancy in future years of cable and a lot of other mediums because of direct satellite communication into your home—it will happen very shortly—if we cannot get rid of a dinosaur of a program like funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, then we do not have the right to say we are a Senate that is on the verge of entering the 21st century with setting our priorities.

I will be happy to yield to the Senator from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the majority leader. This amendment is critically important, and serves as a continuing demonstration of our willingness to curtail expenditures which we cannot afford.

Much has been said today about the children of America, but the best way to ensure their future is to make sure that we are fiscally responsible. It is important to make the hard choices for the right reasons. That, Mr. President, is the number one investment that we can make in the children of America.

Last night, late at night, this House made a mature and difficult decision about a substantial number of court-houses across the country that we simply could not afford. Mr. President, \$1.4 billion was cut, and in the process, a commitment to the next generation was kept.

I rise today, Mr. President, in support of a particular aspect of the ma-

jority leader's amendment. Specifically, an additional \$91.6 million from the foreign operations budget. I think when we are talking about the children of America, and the future of this country, we all understand that there is going to have to be some sacrifice made on their behalf. To take 1.4 percent out of the foreign aid budget is not asking for too much. It is simply saying that when we are considering sacrifice, when we are considering restraint, people around the world will need to share in that sacrifice.

Some might ask, "Is this not isolationist?" I hardly think a 1.4-percent rescission makes an isolationist out of the United States of America. It simply does not, it will not, and it should not. And to argue as such is to fundamentally mislead the American people.

The point is we are going to have to ask our allies abroad to share in the kind of restraint needed to move toward a balanced budget. But of equal importance, Mr. President, I would argue that it may be that the best kind of foreign aid we could ever provide to countries overseas is the kind of benefit they would receive from a stable, fiscally sound U.S. economy.

Mr. President, we are looking at a major restructuring of the way in which we deal with foreign entities. As part of that, it is important that we begin to send a signal, to friend and foe alike, that we are moving to put our fiscal house in order.

It is important to note that all of the funds that were recommended to be rescinded in the House were unobligated funds. The Senate number was \$100 million, theirs was \$191.6 million. Now, if the House could make those reductions without really impairing priority programs, I think we ought to match their efforts. We are talking about an additional .0067 multiplier, which would provide the additional \$91.6 million.

Mr. President, we have spent almost half a trillion dollars over the last 45 years to increase peace and prosperity abroad. Unfortunately, in many cases, there is very little to show for our efforts. We need to think carefully about how we deploy resources and what a strong America, economically, means to the rest of the world. I cannot remember anyone cornering me in a coffee shop in Camdenton, MO, and saying, "You have to support more funding for U.S. peacekeeping," or "To be sure I am firmly on board when the next AID package comes before the Senate."

It is time we start to look at our foreign aid budget and begin allocating funds only in those areas in which America has vital national interests at stake. The American people are a generous people, but they want a return on their investment.

Mr. President, when we talk about fiscal belt-tightening and the responsibility associated with it, a minimal reduction in foreign aid must be part of that mix. The House bill cuts foreign

aid accounts by nearly \$200 million. Our bill only has \$100 million. The addition of the \$91.6 million would, again, move us in the right direction.

As I mentioned earlier, last evening we started. We started a constructive effort by cutting \$1.4 billion in an essential function of Government. The judicial process is one of the most fundamental components of American government. Courthouses are important. But our children and the next generation of Americans are also important. Mr. President, we cannot afford to spend what we do not have. This package represents a small, reasonable step in the right direction.

Mr. President, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I have been trying to understand the substitute amendment versus the underlying Daschle amendment. I would like to say what I believe, based on about 10 minutes of study, this does.

As I understand it, what the amendment of Senator DASCHLE, the minority leader, does is it takes \$1.3 billion from FEMA, fiscal year 1997, and it restores certain cuts that have been recommended for children and educational programs.

What I understand the majority leader's amendment to have done is it restores fiscal year 1997 FEMA funds, \$1.3 billion, and it cuts even more deeply. It cuts the children's and the education programs, plus it cuts a whole series of programs including Radio Free Europe, legal services, foreign operations, the biological survey, libraries, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, airport and airway trust fund, highways, AmeriCorps, and the youth bill. So, essentially, as I understand it, we have two rather clear choices on the floor of the U.S. Senate, one of which is the Dole approach which is much deeper, and the Daschle approach that says let us make cuts but what we cut, let us not cut the most vulnerable in our society, the future of our society—children and education.

I want to take a couple of minutes and speak to that because I think it is a worthy attempt, even as rescissions are being made, to take a good look at what we are doing and saying as we talk about investment in the future. As we talk about investing in economic infrastructure, should we also invest in our human infrastructure of which the most important part is our children? In order to secure the future of our children, the most important part is their education.

I would like to speak specifically to the Dole amendment. We all know that, regardless of what version it is, there is going to be welfare reform in this session of Congress. We all desire it. And so to people in this Nation, as

has so often been said by Senator GRAMM of Texas—the time has come for people to get out of the cart and help push it.

In order to push it, it means go to work. But if you are poor, if you are female, if you have children, and if you are on welfare, you are going to need child care to go to work.

So, does it make sense as we talk about investment in our future to cut child care? I think it does not because we just complicate the problem downstream. So I believe that rescission, that cut, is not a prudent investment in our future.

Head Start—what is Head Start? Head Start is a concept. We have 16 million youngsters in this Nation growing up in poverty. The concept is that if we can get children young with their parents to come in at a very early age, if we can counsel with those parents—these are poor parents, poor children—if we can counsel with them, if we can begin early on to teach them the discipline and structure of learning that when they get into the grade they will be able to keep up with their class instead of what so many know happen, that there is an emotional dropping out followed by an intellectual dropping out, followed by a physical dropping out of children in the elementary school years—guess what? What has been found is that, if you apply the Head Start concept well, not sloppily but well—which involves bringing in the family—children do better. They graduate with higher grades. Guess what? By the age of 19 they are much more likely to get a job. That is the investment in the future. That is what Head Start speaks to. Properly carried out it works.

So I ask the question: Does it then make sense in this rescission package to cut back on Head Start? I answer that question by saying no, it does not. Let us take another one that has been bandied with on the floor. AmeriCorps. I have just heard AmeriCorps is not just for people who are struggling. It is not for the middle class, it has youngsters and adults in it, and it has youngsters whose parents are doctors, or so on. It is my understanding that over 75 percent of those admitted to AmeriCorps thus far have incomes of under \$50,000. Do I believe that 100 percent of the parents of the youngsters going into AmeriCorps should have incomes of under \$50,000? The answer is, yes, I do. But the vast majority of participants come from moderate- to low-income families, and AmeriCorps is clearly a worthy program.

Let me speak as a mayor who more than a decade ago took \$1 million of community development block grant money in San Francisco and began a new program, the first urban conservation corps in this Nation. It has since been replicated by 22 big cities. You can imagine the pride I had when I had Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles come up to San Francisco to learn from us how we took youngsters age 16

to 23, very fragile youngsters with no work ethic, with a background of juvenile delinquency and began to teach them a work ethic and put them to work building bike paths, restoring park areas, painting over graffiti, doing public works projects, repairing places in housing authority projects. And those youngsters learned a work ethic. They went out at the end of the year and could get a job. I think it was the most successful program I did.

This is what AmeriCorps is built on. It is built on the concept of a conservation corps where you take young people, where you teach them a work ethic and whereas they work, they can earn, and in this case earn a college scholarship. It is a vital program. Again, is it as important an investment in our economic infrastructure as free trade may be? I think it is. Because again, it is teaching our young people a skill which they are able to use and then further their education.

Let us take WIC, the Women, Infants, and Children Program. When I was mayor I used to go down to where food was given out in San Francisco. I would see pregnant women come in, again many of them undernourished, again many of them troubled, many of them not able to provide a nutritious meal. Sure. They would go out and buy a bag of potato chips. They would eat high-fat food. But they were not nutritious meals.

What WIC has done is offer an opportunity to develop a cost-effective birth system for people who are poor and deprived in this Nation because they are able to get some foods that are nutritious during the term of pregnancy and produce youngsters who come into this world with a chance. In a way, it is a cost-effective investment in our future.

Let me talk about cuts in education. Today, all across the United States of America we graduate kids from schools that cannot read or write, multiply, divide or add, recognize China on a map, fill out an employment application, or follow a bus schedule. These are actual examples. They are not made up. They are true. It is called the failure of American public education.

Where American public education fails the most is in the elementary school. That is where Head Start and that is where chapter 1 comes in.

Chapter 1 again are funds that go to States for basic remedial and primary education. It is reading, it is writing, it is arithmetic, and it goes to those school districts that have poor children in them. It is a very big ticket item for California, the largest State in the Union.

For me this cut for California schools means a loss of \$8.7 million of the anticipated \$729 million in fiscal year 1995. If these rescissions are cut, the county of Los Angeles loses \$2.5 million for reading and writing and arithmetic for poor children. That is what chapter 1 does.

One of the things that I have believed in is that we should go to a decentral-

ized public education system. We should allow schools to float free. We should provide standards of education for young people. What is the degree of proficiency you should have in reading, in writing, in math for promotion? What is the knowledge of social service? What is the knowledge of science programs that you should have to promote? What Goals 2000 did was provide a voluntary mandate to schools to establish tough curriculum standards. Is that an investment in our future in terms of building a young work corps of youngsters that are able to get a job in an economy that is becoming more and more high-technology, where you have to understand computers to work in factories?

I think the answer clearly is yes, this is the future. So Goals 2000 spoke to that, spoke to tougher education standards. Chapter 1 talks to basic reading skills. I think these cuts are not necessary.

The bottom line is, as I look at the majority leader's amendment and the minority leader's amendment, what I see is the possibility of putting together an amendment that is bipartisan, that could achieve additional cuts, if that is what people are looking for, and not impact children and not impact education.

Now, there are those who believe that education and children are the fuzzy issues in our society. I am not one of them. I speak as a former mayor. I speak as somebody who has seen a lot of trials and a lot of tribulation, who knows the streets. I think the future of America is our kids. I think it is wrong to cut from our kids at this point in time.

Pick up a newspaper today and see where another youngster in Los Angeles is shot in the head standing at the side of his home. That kind of thing must stop. Drug-free and safe schools are cut in this rescission package. If there is anything we should be doing it is ending drug use at school, it is making schools safe. To do it, you have to start early. If you start late, it is too late. If you start in the middle school, it is too late. You must start in the elementary school.

Mrs. Reagan said, "Just say no to drugs." And guess what? If kids believe that early enough, it works. If you wait until it is too late, it does not work. So why at this point in time do we cut drug-free and safe schools? Is that a prudent investment in the future? I think not.

So what I say in a summary sentence or two, just having heard what has happened on this floor this morning, there are things in the substitute amendment that I could buy. There are things in the rescission package that many of us cannot buy. Why not sit down and try to put together a package that protects our future, protects our young people, and protects our education? I think it can be done if there is a will in this body to do so.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. PACKWOOD. I now ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 831, the self-employed health care deduction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the report?

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right to object, I am just wondering—and I do not intend to object—I am just wondering. We had been involved in a debate on the rescission bill. Senator DASCHLE had introduced a measure which he had announced that he was going to introduce. And we had another amendment that was in the second degree and debate was taking place. Many of us had planned to talk and debate.

Could the chairman of the Finance Committee indicate to those of us who were involved in that debate and discussion whether those measures now are being withdrawn and whether we will come back and address them at another time, just as a point of information so that we have some understanding what the matters are before the Senate?

Many of us thought we were going to be proceeding with the rescissions bill. We were given that indication again last night by the majority leader. We came over this morning intending to debate it. Then we had an amendment in the second degree. And now we are going on to a different matter.

I do not intend to object to moving to a different matter, although I would want to be able to speak to the conference report. I am just asking as a matter of information so that we have some understanding about where we are on the amendment of the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. PACKWOOD. It is our intention to simply lay them aside. We will come back to them as soon as we are done with the conference report. We had suggested, although it has not been cleared I think on your side yet, a half an hour time limit on the conference report, 15 minutes equally divided, so that we would be back to it quite soon.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

Mr. KENNEDY. If I could continue, I understand then that the request is just to move to the conference report?

Mr. PACKWOOD. That is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would indicate just as one Member, I know the importance and the timeliness of the matters which are included in the conference report and the importance of achieving that. But I do want to indicate that there is a matter that has been raised in the conference report that with regard to the special tax provisions for some of the wealthiest individuals in the country. I know the Senator is familiar with this, and I wish to indicate to the leader that I have every intention of submitting a sense-of-the-Senate resolution on this matter before we reach a final decision. I am more than glad to work out the details with the chairman of the Finance Committee or with the majority leader, but I wish to at least indicate at this time my intention of proposing such a sense-of-the-Senate resolution when the matter does come before the Senate and at an appropriate time after the chairman of the Finance Committee or the members of conference committee have had an opportunity to explain the conference report.

Mr. PACKWOOD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. PACKWOOD. I ask for the yeas and nays on the conference report.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order to object at this point.

Is there objection to proceeding to the conference report?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. PACKWOOD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 831) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, to repeal the provision permitting nonrecognition of gain on sales and exchanges effectuating policies of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of March 29, 1995.)

Mr. PACKWOOD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. PACKWOOD. I think the Senate is very familiar with this bill. We have

debated it thoroughly on the Senate floor. We have debated it in committee.

The bill will allow self-employed individuals to deduct 25 percent of the cost of health insurance premiums this year and 30 percent starting next year. This bill makes the deduction permanent. We would like to raise the deduction even more. But this is the first time we have ever made it permanent.

The reason this is so timely is people need to know this to prepare their tax returns. The deadline for filing 1994 tax returns is now only 2 weeks away.

So I hope the Senate would not spend a lot of time on this bill. I think everyone understands the bill, and I would be prepared to vote on the conference report.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was wondering if the chairman of the committee would be willing to describe exactly the circumstances that took place in the conference committee in relationship to what tax payments would be expected from expatriates. A story was included in today's Washington Post and in other newspapers about the tax break that has allowed billionaires to renounce their U.S. citizenship, leave the country, and escape taxes on their profits.

The story reads:

A Senate proposal to tax such wealthy expatriates was dropped in a tax bill during a House-Senate conference Tuesday night, at least partly because of the pressure from lobbyists . . .

I am wondering if the chairman of the committee could review for the membership exactly what took place in the conference in relationship to that particular measure, and if he could review with us what the considerations were and why a judgment was made in the conference to provide for the elimination of that particular provision which had been accepted and approved in the Senate.

Mr. PACKWOOD. I would be happy to do that, Mr. President.

What happened was this: We added this provision in the Senate Finance Committee without any hearings.

From time to time, we pass things for which we do not know all the consequences. I do not think we know if this unfairly affects American citizens, or how it affect aliens or nonresidents that are living here.

The House had on the floor a motion to instruct its conferees to not accept the expatriate tax provision. That instruction was accepted. So the House was proceeding as they were instructed.

Chairman ARCHER and I agreed to have the Joint Tax Committee study the expatriate provision and report back to us by June 1. The Joint Tax Committee is instructed to study the